

Science

In the second trimester, Chinese class will teach a new science unit - Structures of Life in Plants. Your child will use a class sprouter to plant various kinds of seeds and examine the process of germination. Then students will grow seedlings hydroponically in a nutrient solution and observe them throughout their life cycle.

You can increase your child's understanding and interest by asking about your child's investigations at school and by providing more experiences about the process of germination at home. You might want to count the seeds found in various fruits and vegetables as you prepare dinner (Your child will learn that all plant parts that hold seeds are technically fruits). You could also grow plants from seeds, grow and eat edible sprouts, and look for the fruits and seeds of plants in your neighborhood.

Please do the following Home/School activities (see below). These activities will provide an opportunity for your whole family to look more closely at the structures of life around you.

Assignment 1 (Due: Tuesday, February 28th, 2017)

種子們的來源 Origin of Seeds

Where there are plants, there are seeds. Take a family walk around the block or to a park. Look for seeds. Weeds are famous for producing lots of seeds – that’s one reason why they are so successful.

Make a seed collection. You can find seeds from plants or fruits. **Glue or tape a few seeds in the spaces on this sheet.** If you know the names of the plant where the seed came from, write it in the box above the seed.

Look at each seed and try to figure out how it might move from the parent plant to a new location to grow.

收集種子 Seed Collection

Name of the seed 種子們的名稱				
Seed Sample 種子的樣品				
Name of the seed 種子們的名稱				
Seed Sample 種子的樣品				

Safety Note: Although most plants are harmless, some can cause allergic reactions. Use care to select your seeds. Don’t eat anything you collect, and wash your hands after handling the seeds or plants.

Assignment 2 **Due: Tuesday, February 28th, 2017**

Take a neighborhood field trip. Look for a plant that has all of the parts listed below and answer the questions in the chart below. If you find a weed that is OK to dig or pull up, look at the roots, too.

請劃下你觀察的植物，再描寫它特別的地方

Is there anything else interesting about the plant? Draw your observations

- How tall is the plant? 植物有多高? 公分或英寸
- How tall is the stem? 植物的莖有多長? 公分或英寸
- How many seeds? 種子有幾顆? 一個 少許 很多
- How big is the flower (like the size of what)? 花像什麼那麼大?
- Is there only one root or root hair? 根有一個主根或是有根鬚
- How big are the leaves (like the size of what)? 葉子像什麼那麼大?
- Does plant grow along or with other plants? 植物是靠自己或跟其他植物長在一起?

Social Studies

This trimester, your child will also study “Land and Water in Your Area.” This unit includes topics such as:

- Physical features - deserts, mountains, and oceans
- The desert region has many flat, low areas.
- The valley region is flat, and rivers flow through it.
- The coast region has mountains, hills and cliffs.
- The mountain region has mountains and lakes.
- People use the things in our region to meet their needs.
- Sometimes people change the environment to help meet their needs.
- Many reasons to protect the environment.

Family Activities:

Discuss whether you live in a desert, coast, mountain, or valley region. Which of your community’s features help you to know that?

Learn Together

Help your child learn how people and their environments affect each other

- How has your family change your home (by rearranging furniture, for example) to improve the way you live? How is this similar or different to changing the environment of a region to meet people’s needs?
- Draw a map of your home or a room in your home. On the map, show where different resources can found, such as flashlights, towels, food, or books.
- List how your family helps protect the environment (for example, recycling). Then find out other ways you can help the environment and implement one of these ideas.

Read Together

Types of Maps, by Mary Dodson Wade. (scholastic Library Publishing ISBN 0-516-27768-5, 2003) Nonfiction

Letters Home from Yosemite, by Lisa Halvorsen. (Gale Group, ISBN 1-56711-462-8, 2000)

Dams, by Chris Oxlade. (Heineman Library, ISBN 1-57572-277-1, 2000) Nonfiction

Chinese Oral Language How-to Oral Presentation

The presentation schedule will be announced with the presentation packet.

The specific date of your child's oral presentation will be announced in your child's agenda.

Your child will give a “How to” oral presentation.

Things needed to be included in the presentation

- A brief introduction including your child's name and topic of presentation
- It has to be at least 3 minutes
- A clearly sequenced presentation by using transition words that will be reviewed in the class

Suggestions that your child can include in his or her oral presentation.

- Choose a topic that he or she is good at or he or she is interested in.
- Be well prepared to ease his or her nervousness. He or she can practice to himself or herself or anybody in your family. During the practice, please time himself or herself.
- Interesting attention getter at the beginning of his or her introduction to attract audience's attention. It can be a personal story, prompts relevant to audience, etc.
- Avoid unnecessary lag time. For example, if your child is demonstrating how to make a sandwich while he or she is waiting for the toast, he or she can explain other steps such as spreading pre-cut square lettuces nice and flat on the plate, preparing the turkey meat, putting two slices of tomato on the top, etc.
- Prepare an outline of the presentation to avoid reading from scripts.
- Visual aids (maps, photos, films etc.,) arranged in sequence can help him or her be more organized

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Chinese Language Arts

In the second trimester, we will cover the following Chinese lessons

第四課 Lesson 4 - Oceanic World

第五課 Lesson 5 - A Scarf for Grandma

第六課 Lesson 6 - North Wind and the Sun

第七課 Lesson 7 - Who Am I Like?